

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl has been translated into 67 languages and has sold more than 31 million copies. It is the most widely read memoir of the Holocaust. For many American students, this book is their first exposure to the horror and historical uniqueness of the Holocaust.

Anne Frank has become an inspiration to youth of all faiths and is a symbol of children throughout the world who suffer in war, subjugation and oppression. She serves as a beacon of bravery, hope and tolerance under the most harsh, inhumane conditions. Her life and death are reminders of the need for constant vigilance and international human rights.

U.S. postage stamps have honored well-respected and influential people, and I believe that Anne Frank deserves recognition. It is appropriate to honor her in this very unique way.

Today Anne Frank would have been 74 years old. She was a talented writer, and her contribution to the world cannot be understated. In one year from today, we will be remembering her on her 75th birthday. I am hopeful that this postage stamp will be issued in time for this milestone.

I encourage all my colleagues to cosponsor this important resolution.

SOUTH CAROLINA SEWER DIVERS

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in South Carolina, a new breed of heroes are saving the city of Charleston from a potentially catastrophic sewage explosion and subsequent environmental disaster. It will take years and millions of dollars to replace the aging Charleston sewage tunnels. Until then, the Commissioners of Public Works are calling upon divers to repair the existing pipes and tunnels. Already two sewage tunnels have suffered minor cave-ins, but these divers were able to prevent the dumping of millions of gallons of wastewater into the harbor. Sewage divers are crawling more than 120 feet underground into a mire which is so dark and filled with murky sludge that even the strongest light is unable to reveal what surrounds them.

Daily, these brave men risk their lives to protect the well being of other citizens in their community. Although their job has a high level of difficulty, the divers do not complain but fearlessly complete what they believe is "just their job."

On behalf of the residents of South Carolina and especially Charleston, I would like to commend the sewer divers for their bravery, selflessness, and dedication to the historic city and its overall welfare.

DISABLED VETERANS TAX

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am signing a discharge petition that I brought to the House floor to right a wrong that has been done to disabled American veterans for more

than a century. In 1891, the United States of America imposed the Disabled Veterans Tax. We did not call it by this name. We did not even call it a tax. Instead we called it a prohibition upon concurrent receipt. We called it something few Americans would understand.

Mr. Speaker, our predecessors in Congress called their law a prohibition upon concurrent receipt because they did not want to call it what it is, a tax on disabled veterans. This bad law prohibits retired veterans from receiving both their retirement pay and any benefit for a service-related disability at the same time. In effect, it is a 100% tax on a retired veteran's disability benefits. As a veteran's disability increases, so does the tax imposed by our government.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to call the concurrent receipt prohibition what it really is: the Disabled Veterans Tax. It was wrong then. It is wrong now. It is time to end the Disabled Veterans Tax.

Mr. Speaker, I receive a disability benefit for wounds received in Vietnam. But my benefits are not taxed away. The Disabled Veterans Tax does not apply to me because I only served two years. Had I provided more service to my country—enough to be entitled to military retirement benefits—then the Disabled Veterans Tax would tax away my disability benefit completely.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot imagine how any member of this body can defend the Disabled Veterans Tax, a tax that not only punishes disabled veterans, but punishes most those who served our country most, those who made the military a career. Congress should be ashamed of itself.

Mr. Speaker, for years a large majority of the members of this House have cosponsored House Resolution 303, a bill that would end the Disabled Veterans Tax. And for years, House Resolution 303 has been bottled up in committee, just like campaign finance reform was bottled up. The discharge petition process forced a vote on campaign finance reform. I am using that same process to force a vote on ending the Disabled Veterans Tax.

At last count 322 members of this Congress are co-sponsors of House Resolution 303. Only 218 of these co-sponsors must sign the discharge petition for us to force a vote. This bill has broad bipartisan support. Both Democrats and Republicans have co-sponsored House Resolution 303. I am a Georgia Democrat, but by my discharge petition seeks to force a vote on a bill authored by a Florida Republican.

Mr. Speaker, some will ask whether we can afford this tax cut, whether we can afford to let these disabled veterans keep their benefit money. I believe many cosponsors of House Resolution 303 have already answered that question twice this year. These cosponsors already have voted for tax cuts 400 billion dollars and 200 billion dollars greater than what we eventually enacted. So Mr. Speaker, on the question whether we should finally eliminate the Disabled Veterans Tax, I trust we will not hear questions about affordability coming from those already on record in support of far, far larger tax cuts.

Mr. Speaker, the Disabled Veterans Tax is wrong. As of this morning, 322 cosponsors of House Resolution 303 agree with me. Let's bring it to a vote. No more half measures. No more evasions. No more hypocrisy. It's time for members who continually co-sponsor this bill to put up or shut up, once and for all.

TRIBUTE TO THE MCCOLLOUGH INVADERS IN THEIR 38TH YEAR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the McCollough Invaders, a gospel missionary brass band who this week will be celebrating their 38th Anniversary.

These men are only a few of the many unsung heroes of our community, who have given of their time and have never asked for anything in return. This group of men began their careers as early as 9 years of age. During the 1960s, these boys were encouraged by the late Bishop Walter McCollough to make a positive contribution to the community while simultaneously improving the quality of their own lives.

Many came from broken homes where there was no father figure. Their grandparents, aunts, uncles, older brothers, sisters, other relatives or friends would step in when a parent was not around. In order to make ends meet, many of their families depended on public assistance. In some cases, these boys were left to themselves to survive on their own.

Despite these personal obstacles, these young boys devoted their lives to ministering music to many in need of relief from the day-to-day frustrations and anxieties of life. Throughout the 1960s, they performed around the country. Their dedication to the peace movement and to playing Gospel music helped shaped the America we know today.

Today the McCollough Invaders are still making history. Some of these young men no longer live in New York. However, they continue to influence and help others cope with life's frustrations by making burdens just a little bit lighter. Some have used what they have learned many years ago by working with young Gospel bands and marching bands in other inner cities in Washington, DC, and Charlotte, N.C. Their travels have taken them as west as California and as south as Florida.

Others have become business leaders or entrepreneurs in the fields of finance, healthcare, energy, and technology. Many continue to work with youngsters who are mirrored images of themselves almost two scores ago. It is certain that these young men have been and will continue to be role models for others who will also make significant contributions to our communities.

Though the McCollough Invaders can be heard on any given Sunday at the same venue in Harlem, New York at 125th Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard, we join the City of New York on Saturday, June 14, 2003 as The McCollough Invaders celebrate 38 priceless years of providing service to the Harlem community and the world.

A TRIBUTE TO AL DAVIS

SPEECH OF

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to join with my colleagues and celebrate the life and mourn the untimely, tragic